

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

Claims 1-36 (Canceled)

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A method for a host computer communicatively linked to a local area network (LAN) and a virtual circuit network to handle communications between a LAN device and a virtual circuit interface device, the method comprising the steps of:

intercepting a request sent to the virtual circuit interface device from the LAN device;

extracting a network address of the LAN device from the request;

forwarding the request to the virtual circuit interface device;

receiving a virtual circuit response from a virtual circuit device through the virtual circuit interface device, the response including a virtual circuit identifier assigned to a virtual circuit connection;

storing in a table a correlation between the network address from the request and the virtual circuit identifier from the response; and

forwarding the response to the LAN device,

wherein the virtual circuit interface device is a Remote Network Drive Interface Specification (RNDIS) device, the request is an RNDIS-compliant message, and the response is an RNDIS-compliant message.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising mediating communication on the virtual circuit connection using the correlation stored in the table.

Claim 39 (Canceled)

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the host computer appears as the virtual circuit interface device to the LAN device.